(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (e) Yes Sir. The Government of Andhra Pradesh have reported that in terms of Andhra Pradesh District Planning Committees Act, 2005 and rules thereunder, District Planning Committees have been constituted in all districts of the State, except Ranga Reddy. The State has reported that the detailed guidelines on functions and meeting procedures of District Planning Committees, the strategy for preparing draft district plans, and guidelines for the collection and maintenance of the data base are under issue.

Assistance under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana

2545. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalized a new scheme to provide assistance/ grants to backward, snowbound and hilly districts of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh on the lines of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof and allocation of funds to these States; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The Backward Regions Grant Fund Programme (BRGF) covers 250 districts in 27 States. Chamoli, Champawat and Tehri Garhwal districts of Uttarakhand and Chamba and Sirinaur districts of Himachal Pradesh are included among these districts. The districts have been selected on the basis of certain parameters designed to assess backwardness. The Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY), covering 147 districts, has been subsumed into this Programme. The BRGF is designed to redress regional imbalances. In contradistinction to RSVY, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) have been designated as the planning and implementing authorities under BRGF and district planning in conformity with the Constitutional provisions has been made the *sine qua non* of the BRGF.

Allocation under the district component of BRGF consist of two funding windows (a) funds for capacity building of Panchayati Raj Institutions and (b) untied developmental grants. Districts covered under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana are required to complete their allocation of Rs.45 crore per district under the earlier programme before these shift to the BRGF mode of funding. Chamba and Sirmaur districts of Himachal Pradesh have received their total allocations under RSVY, however, all three districts of Uttarakhand are yet to claim two installments of Rs. 7.5 crore each under RSVY.

Uttarakhand is entitled to Rs.3 Crore per year and Himachal Pradesh is entitled to Rs.2 crore per year under the capacity-building component of BRGF. The entitlements of different districts of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, under the component 'untied developmental grant' for the year 2007-08 are at Statement-I (*See* below). The status of funds so far released to the districts of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand under BRGF in 2006-07 and 2007-08 may be seen at Statement-II.

Statement-I

Entitlements of Districts of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand under the Untied Developmental Grant Component

State	District	Entitlements in 2007-08 (Rs. crore)
Himachal Pradesh	Chamba	15.56
	Sirinaur	12.98
	TOTAL:	28.55
Uttarakhand	Chamoli	16.22*
	Champawat	11.64*
	Tehri Garhwal	14.05*
	TOTAL:	41.90

* The districts will become eligible only after claiming remaining two installments of Rs. 7.50 crore each, under RSVY.

Statement-II

Funds so far released to the districts of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand under BRGF in the year 2006-07 *and* 2007-08

Backward Districts Initiative-Release of Funds to RSVY districts

(Total entitlements under RSVY is Rs. 45 crore, per district since 2003-04)

(Amount in crores of rupees)

State	District	Amount released in 2006-07	Amount released in 2007-08	Balance entitlements from Rs. 45 crore, per district
Himachal Pradesh	Chamba	15.00	7.50	Nil
	Sirmaur	15.00	7.50	Nil
	TOTAL:	30.00	15.00	Nil
Uttarakhand	Chamoli	15.00	0.00	15.00
	Champawat	7.50	7.50	15.00
	Tehri Garhwal	15.00	0.00	15.00
	TOTAL:	37.50	7.50	45.00